

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES-CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF
EDUCATION REGARDING GENERAL EXCHANGE PROBLEMS

REF: A) STATE 053279 B) STATE 056305

1. ON MARCH 18 AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED KEITH HITCHINS AND
EMBOFFS ON CALL ON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION DUMITRU POP.
PURPOSE OF CALL WAS TO INTRODUCE HITCHINS AND TO DISCUSS
DIRECTION OF FULBRIGHT LECTURER PROGRAM IN ROMANIA AND OTHER
CURRENT EXCHANGE PROBLEMS. (CALL ON POP CONCLUDED VERY USEFUL
HITCHINS PROGRAM HERE WHICH INCLUDED TWO WORKING-LEVEL CON-
FERENCES AT MINED AND DISCUSSIONS REGARDING PROGRAM AT
ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS IN CLUJ AND SIBIU.)

2. DURING CONVERSATION, POP INFORMED EMBASSY THAT
"A NEW DECREE" WAS BEING PREPARED WHICH WOULD REGULATE AND
CODIFY THE SYSTEM OF SENDING ROMANIAN SCHOLARS ABROAD FOR
RESEARCH AND STUDY AS WELL AS RESPONSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS
INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. THE
COMMENTS WERE MADE FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S EXPRESSIONS OF
REGRET THAT NO NOMINATIONS HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM THE
MINISTRY IN RESPONSE TO THE RPI INVITATIONS (AMBASSADOR HAD
WRITTEN POP EARLIER ON THE POINT) AND QUESTIONING WHEN
ROMANIAN NOMINATIONS UNDER ARTICLE I, SECTION 1, FOR THE
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1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR WOULD BE RECEIVED. POP MENTIONED

"A PREVIOUS RESTRICTED PERIOD" FOR EXCHANGES FOLLOWED BY
"A MORE OPEN PERIOD" WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT A NEW PERIOD
HAD BEGUN WHICH WOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE FORTHCOMING REGULA-
TION. POP DID NOT DESCRIBE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEW LAW
OTHER THAN TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE
TRAVEL ABROAD OF PERSONS WITH TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES UNLESS
THEY WRE PART OF AN EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENT.

3. POP STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE ROMANIAN SIDE
WOULD MEET "ALL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE U.S.-ROMANIAN PROGRAM
OF EXCHANGES." BASED ON HIS COMMENTS, HOWEVER, THE ENTIRE
MATTER OF ROMANIAN NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR
SEEMS TO BE IN ABEYANCE PENDING FORMAL PROMULGATION OF THIS
NEW LAW. POP'S SPECULATION ON TIMING USED THE PHRASE "MID-
APRIL" ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED TO GIVE A SPECIFIC ANSWER ON WHEN
NOMINATIONS WOULD BE RELEASED LEST WE REPROACH HIM LATER FOR
NOT HAVING KEPT HIS WORD.

4. COMMENT: FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS (SINCE THE
MINISTRY'S FAILURE TO MEET THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON DATE
OF FEBRUARY 7 FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE 1975-76 ROMANIAN
NOMINATIONS IN THE GS/YI AND RESEARCHER CATEGORIES), IT HAS
BEEN APPARENT THAT A NEW SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM HAD ARISEN.
THE MINISTRY HAS BEEN UNWILLING, HOWEVER, PRIOR TO DEPUTY
MINISTER POP'S CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, TO EXPLAIN
THE PRESENT SITUATION TO THE EMBASSY. DEPUTY MINISTER POP
SEEMED CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD BE ABLE
TO MEET THE NEW APRIL 1 DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
CANDIDATES FOR THE RPI SCHOLARSHIPS. IN OUR VIEW, GIVEN
ABOVE DISCUSSION AS WELL AS DELAYS IN OUR OWN SUBMISSIONS,
FURTHER APPROACHES ON THESE MATTERS WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE
AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE MINISTRY UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER,
THAT CONTINUING DELAY IN THE SUBMISSION OF ROMANIAN
NOMINATIONS WILL LIMIT THE ABILITY OF THE AMERICAN PLACE-
MENT AGENCIES TO LOCATE AFFILIATIONS FOR THEIR CANDIDATES.
AT THIS POINT IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT A SIZEABLE
PORTION OF THEIR CANDIDATES MAY HAVE TO BEGIN THEIR PRO-
GRAMS DURING SECOND SEMESTER OF THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR.
EMBASSY WILL ADVISE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

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5. OTHER SUBJECTS MARCH 18 CALL REPORTED SEPTTEL.
HITCHINS ARRIVES
MARCH 20 AND HAS ALL DETAILS.

6. PLEASE INFORM RPI OF POP'S PROMISE TO GET
NOMINATIONS TO EMBASSY BY APRIL 1.
BARNES

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